

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

*On page 10, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 28 as follows:*

-- As depicted in Figure 1, support element 10b has a tap 12, which is [[a]] connected to connection wire 16a. Support element 10c has a tap 14, being electrically coupled to wire 16b. Support element 10b is electrically connected to support element 10c on the side of said substrate 4 (not depicted). Therefore, the support element 10b provides a short circuit with support element 10c.--

*On page 13, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 10 as follows:*

--Figure 3 depicts a method according to the invention. First of all, physical values are picked-off from the support elements (step 20). After having picked-off the physical values (step 20), the values are analyzed within a measurement circuit and a status of the mechanical properties of the mechanical coupling between the integrated circuit package and the printed wiring board is determined (step 22). From the status of the mechanical coupling, the status of the electrical coupling is also determined (step 22).--

*On page 13, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 20 as follows:*

--The resulting status is stored in a storage within the respective device (step 24). After that, a wait state is reached (step 26). After a predetermined time, physical values are again picked-off (20). By that, the physical values are picked-off (step 20) in intervals, the electrical coupling properties are determined (step 22) and the results are stored (step 24).--

*On page 13, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 27 as follows:*

--To allow maintenance and repair of the electrical device, the storage may be read out (step 28) through an interface by a technician. By that, the technician may figure out which components are subject to failure and may only replace these components. This reduces repair costs dramatically.--